

Climate Ready Estuaries Program Helps Reduce Vulnerabilities to Climate Change



During 2010, the The Climate Ready Estuaries (CRE) Program and its National Estuary Program (NEP) partners became increasingly involved in climate change adaptation efforts across the country and were at the cutting edge of this field. The White House Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) recognized CRE for its work in helping resource managers reduce their vulnerability to climate change effects, and CEQ's Climate Adaptation Task Force cited CRE as a good example of a Federal program helping to facilitate adaptation at the local level.

EPA provided targeted support to NEPs through grants and technical assistance, access to key resources, and tools through the CRE website and Coastal toolkit and EPA also facilitated collaboration and communication among NEP Partners and other federal, state, regional, and local organizations. NEP partner accomplishments include: the development of climate change indicators by two NEPs, one NEP's sponsorship of a vulnerability assessment and development of adaptation options for several key resources in the NEP study area; and the development by one NEP of a report providing scientific projections about climate change for the NEP's study area followed by the NEP's development of an outreach plan for educating local decision makers and stakeholders about the contents of that report. <http://www.epa.gov/climatereadyestuaries/>. (Michael Craghan, 202-566-1946)

Ex-USS Kittiwake Sunk at Last: First International Vessel-to-Reef Project

EPA, the United States Maritime Administration, the Cayman Islands Tourism Association, and the Cayman Islands Department of the Environment worked closely to successfully complete the First International Vessel-to-Reef Project. The Ex-USS Kittiwake was prepared and cleaned to maintain a clean and safe marine environment, as well as to provide potential habitat for aquatic organisms. On November 12, 2010, EPA issued a clearance letter to the Cayman Islands government, indicating that both the requirements of TSCA and the cleanup goals of the BMP Guidance had been met. On December 17, 2010, the vessel towing from Norfolk, Virginia to the Cayman Islands commenced, and the Kittiwake arrived at Grand Cayman on December 25. The vessel was sunk off the lee side of Grand Cayman on January 5, 2011. The vessel is currently sitting upright at a depth of 65 feet, with the uppermost structure of the vessel just 15 feet below the surface. (Laura Johnson, 202-566-1273)

